TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT

PLANS OF HANOI TO INCREASE MILITARY

DATE DISTR.

24 AUGUST 1963

PRESSURE IN SOUTH VIETNAM

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACO. REFERENCES

APPRAISAL

FIELD REPORT NO

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE

1. (SUMMARY: KRDERS TO WITHDRAW A VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST BATTALION FROM TCHEPONE AND SEND IT TO SOUTH VIETNAM WERE ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH NORTH VIETNAM'S PLAN TO INCREASE MILITARY PRESSURE IN SOUTH VIETNAM DURING THE BUDDHIST CRISIS. HANOI HOPES THIS WILL CONVINCE THE UNITED STATES THAT IT MUST HELP RETAIN THE NGO DINH DIEM GOVERNMENT WHILE SOUTH VIETNAM IS UNDER FIRE FROM VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS. HANDI FEARS THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL TRY TO DEPOSE DIEM, AND IF THIS SUCCEEDED, THE BUDDHIST AND OTHER ISSUES USEFUL TO HANOI WOULD EVAPORATE.)

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AGE 2

VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE RECEIVED A WIRELESS MESSAGE
FROM HANOI WHICH SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST (VC) BATTALION
NOW STATIONED AT TCHEPONE HAS BEEN ORDERED TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY
INTO SOUTH VIETNAM TO HELP THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN ITS GUERRILLA
EFFORTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HANOI IS ACCELERATING ITS ARMED GUERRILLA
ATTACKS IN SOUTH VIETNAM DISPITE THE RAINY SEASON AND THE CONSEQUENT TRANSPORATION DIFFICULITIES. HANOI ADVISED THAT MORE VC TROOPS
WILL BE TRANSITING LAOS FOR EVENTUAL USE IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND THAT
FRESH REPLACEMENTS FOR THE TCHEPONE BATTALION WILL BE FORTHCOMING
SOONEST VIA THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL.

- THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE NOT NOW AIDING
 THE BUDDHISTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM OR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE BUDDHIST SITUATION TO GET THE PEOPLE TO RALLY AGAINST PRESIDENT NGO
 DINH DIEM AND HIS GOVERNMENT. HANOI PREFERS TO KEEP DIEM IN OFFICE
 BECAUSE HE PROVIDES MANY ISSUES WHICH HANOI CAN ATTACK AND USE
 AS A RALLYING POINT FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY.
- HANOI AND PEIPING FEAR THAT THE UNITED

 STATES MIGHT INTERFERE IN THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE POLITICAL

 SCENE AND TRY TO ATTEMPT A COUP TO ELIMINATE DIEM. HANOI AND PEIPING

 BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN NOW STAGE A COUP SUCCESSFULLY

 BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES HAS 13,000 TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND IS

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AGE 3

MORE FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY GENERAL STAFF THAN IN 1960 WHEN. THE UNITED STATES UNSUCCESS-FULLY TRIED TO GET RID OF DIEM BY A MILITARY COUP. THE ORDER TO MOVE THE TCHEFONE BATTALION WAS BASED ON A JOINT HANDL-PEIPING DECISION TO INCREASE MILITARY PRESSURE ON THE DIEM GOVERNMENT IN THE HOPE THAT THE FRESSURE WILL INDUCE THE UNITED STATES TO FEEL THAT IT MUST RETAIN DIEM WHILE SOUTH VIETNAM IS UNDER DIRECT FIRE FROM THE VC GUERRILLAS. IF THE UNITED STATES SUCCEEDED IN DEFOSING DIEM, THE BUDDHIST AND OTHER ISSUES WOULD EVAPORATE: THIS WOULD PEDUCE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE REVOLU-TIOHARY FIRTY, THEREBY REDUCING IMMURSURABLY THE MILITARY EFFECTVE-NESS OF THE VEIGUERRILLAS THE SOUTH MILITIAM AS WELL AS THE REVOLU-TIONARY TAREY RECRUITMENT I ROCKEM.

5. HALOH MAG FOREITH OUT THAT THE HORGER DIEM REMAINS HEAD OF THE SOUTH VIETHWEST GOVERNMENT, THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY CHANCES OF ATTAINING ITS OBJECTIVES ARE GREATLY IMPROVED. HANOI HOPES THAT THE CONTINUANCE OF THE BUDDHIST ISSUE WILL INDUCE COMPLETE UNITS OF THE SOUTH VIETHAMESE ARMY TO DIFFLOT TO THE REVOUTIONARY PARTY, THEREBY WEAKENING THE ARMY AND UNITED STATES MILITARY STRENGTH NOW FIGHTING THE GUERRILLAS.

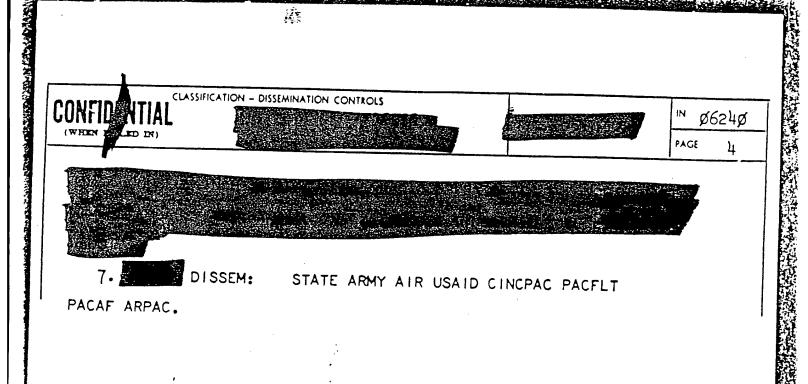
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